

February 21, 2017

Senator Catherine Osten

Senator Paul Formica

Representative Toni Walker

RE: Inter-district Magnet School Funding: ACES Educational Center for the Arts

Dear Appropriations Committee:

My name is Anya Garasimowicz and I am a current student who attends ACES Educational Center for the Arts (ECA). I am writing to support magnet school funding and ECA.

Among the many reasons why funding should NOT be cut from magnet school- in particular ECA:

ECA draws 300 students from over 27 townships and communities throughout Connecticut that otherwise would not have this opportunity to participate in diverse fine arts programs such as the one provided by ECA.

ECA employs professional practicing artists that work with the students to achieve greater heights of artistry, professionalism, and confidence unique only to ECA.

ECA receives more national, state and regional arts awards AND honorable recognitions than any other school in the state of Connecticut!

I'm a senior that has been accepted and received generous scholarships from respected universities such as St. John's, Suffolk, and La Salle that indicated in their acceptance letters that my participation in ECA made a major contribution to my portfolio. I am forever grateful for the time I spent at ECA, and it is absolutely unimaginable to me that cuts of any kind would even be considered at any state magnet school- in particular ECA. ECA has given me an experience that I would have never been able to get at my sending school, and I know for many other students, it is the same way. I am thankful for the connections I have made going to this school. I have not only been able to learn from my teachers, but also from my peers. I know my high school experience would not have been as remarkable without ECA.

I invite you to respond with any questions or further information you may need in regards to funding for magnet schools.

Sincerely,

Anya Garasimowicz

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